



**PATRICK TESTIN**  
STATE SENATOR

***PRESS RELEASE***

Contact:  
Senator Patrick Testin  
(608) 266-3123

October 31, 2017

**Testin's Bills Fighting Synthetic Opioids and Aiding Veteran Farmers Pass the Senate**

**Madison, WI** – Wisconsin's State Senate convened on Tuesday to vote on more than 60 pieces of legislation. Two of the proposals considered – Assembly Bill 335 (AB 335) and Senate Bill 224 (SB 224), both of which were authored by Senator Patrick Testin (Stevens Point) – attracted significant attention and support.

AB 335 is a major step forward in the fight against synthetic opioids derived from fentanyl. Fentanyl, a dangerous schedule 1 controlled drug that is 50 times stronger than heroin, is being illegally manipulated by drug dealers to create new opioids (called analogs) in an effort to evade prosecution. This bill enables law enforcement to deal with those who make and sell these deadly drugs. The bill passed the Senate with bi-partisan support.

"Opioids and their analogs are ruining far too many lives," said Sen. Testin. "Those that push this poison shouldn't be able to hide behind technicalities. This bill gives law enforcement the tools they need to fight back against dealers and manufacturers of these deadly drugs."

Also passing the Senate was SB 224 – the Wisconsin Veterans Farm Bill of 2017. This bill will help military veterans transition into farming and will create a logo for veteran raised farm products. The bill will help bolster agriculture's aging workforce and help returning veterans get established in a career.

"Too often, returning veterans have difficulty finding a career – even though they have a unique skill set," said Testin. This program will help veterans find employment in a sector that needs their involvement, while also giving consumers the opportunity to support veterans at the grocery store or farmer's market."

Both bills now head to the Assembly, where they could be passed in early November.

###